

# International Reading Association Exemplary Reading Award – Michigan 2008

Page Elementary, Thornapple Kellogg Schools, Middleville, MI has been awarded the IRA Exemplary Reading Program Award. This award is sponsored by the International Reading Association to recognize outstanding reading and language arts programs at all grade levels. Its purpose is to call the public's attention to outstanding programs in schools throughout North America. Each participating state and province can choose one winning school.

The program has five objectives: (1) to improve literacy in our society, (2) to recognize school staffs who demonstrate excellence in reading and literacy programs, (3) to encourage the development and refinement of exemplary reading/language arts programs, (4) to report to the public noteworthy efforts to improve reading/language arts, and (5) to disseminate specific information about high-quality programs so that other professionals can use it to improve their own instructional efforts.

Kim Chausow, Page's Literacy Coach, was encouraged to apply for this award by various educators in Michigan. A five page description of Page's Program was written by Kim and submitted to the IRA. The application scored enough points to warrant a site visit from members of MRA and IRA serving on this award committee. After an extremely packed Monday, Feb. 4, the committee made a unanimous decision to award Page Elementary with the Exemplary Reading Program Award.

A summary of Page's Program:

"Let Literacy Be Our Legacy" is our continuing focus at Page Elementary School in Middleville, Michigan. Literacy is the center of instruction and professional development since the literacy coach position was established in the fall of 2006. Since then, Page's Exemplary Reading Program reaches the home, community, teachers, and students through various initiatives. Differentiated instruction within the classroom, volunteer reading mentors, Book Study Club for advanced readers, paraprofessional support and the coaching model from the Literacy Coach have all immensely impacted learning and reading growth at Page Elementary. Teachers work collaboratively and receive professional development opportunities provided by district literacy coaches to learn and implement comprehension strategies to use in the classroom. Page Elementary is a focused literacy team!

Spotlights:

- Guided reading groups/differentiated instruction
- Scholastic Reading Assessment/Data Collection/Analysis
- Rich literacy instruction
- Teaching staff who learn, reflect, revise and grow
- GLCE focused lessons

- Literacy Coach
- Book Study Clubs for advanced readers
- Para-educator support for below grade level readers
- Volunteer reading mentors
- Book room
- Community connection
- Administrative teamwork and support
- Focused district wide Professional development planned, taught, and supported by district Literacy Coaches
- Focus on Comprehension Strategies
- And MUCH MORE!!

Page will be honored at the IRA Conference in May. Please contact the following people for more information. We are excited about this award and want to share Page's Exemplary Reading Program with others!

Kim Chausow, Literacy Coach

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